

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 14754 282233Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00
AID-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 INT-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 L-03 DODE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 /134 W
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R 281658Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8133
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 14754

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EMIN, ETRD, ELAB, CG, BE
SUBJECT: BELGIAN VIEWS ON RESTAFFING GECAMINES AT KOLWEZI

REF: LUBUMBASHI 894

1. TO SUPPLEMENT THE EXCELLENT STATUS REPORT ON
EXPATRIATE RETURN TO KOLWEZI (REFTEL AND PREVIOUS
LUBUMBASHI REPORTS), EMBASSY WISHES TO ADD FOLLOWING
VIEWS GLEANED FROM RECENT TALKS WITH UNION MINIERE
AND BELGIAN LABOR OFFICIALS CONCERNING FATE OF KOLWEZI
EXPATRIATES.

2. UNION MINIERE OFFICIAL TO WHOM WE TALKED JULY 26 AND
WHO RETURNED IN JANUARY 1978 FROM SERVICE IN SHABA GAVE US
UM VIEW THAT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE DIFFICULTY RECRUITING
PEOPLE TO RETURN TO KOLWEZI, NOW THAT SECURITY IS
RESTORED. ACCORDING TO HIM, MAJOR OBSTACLE NOW STANDING
IN WAY OF A RETURN OF EXPATRIATES IS ZAIRIAN ATTITUDE.
OUR UM SOURCE SAID THAT ZAIRIANS IN KOLWEZI SIMPLY DO NOT
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 14754 282233Z

WANT EXPATRIATES BACK. SINCE EXPATRIATES CANNOT BE
EFFECTIVE UNLESS THEY HAVE COOPERATION OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES,
OUR UM SOURCE SEES LITTLE LIKELIHOOD FOR RETURN OF
SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF EXPATRIATES IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE
UNLESS ZAIRIAN ATTITUDE CHANGES.

3. CHRISTIAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (CSC) OFFICIAL--

COMMENTING ON A RECENT PRESS REPORT THAT EXPATRIATES HAVE
GIVEN FGTB/CSC MANDATE TO PURSUE THEIR CLAIMS FOR
COMPENSATION FROM BROKEN CONTRACTS AND FOR BETTER UNEMPLOY-
MENT INSURANCE COMPENSATION--TOLD REGIONAL LABOR OFFICER
JULY 27 THAT BELGIAN UNIONS MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP
EXPATRIATES' CASE BY "INFLUENCING" WHAT HE BELIEVES ARE
THE "REAL" EMPLOYERS OF THESE PEOPLE; I.E., UNION
MINIERE AND SOCIETE GENERALE DES MINERAIS. THIS
OFFICIAL ALSO BELIEVES THAT QUESTION OF EXPATRIATES'
FUTURE IN SHABA MIGHT BE A TOPIC IN THE FORTHCOMING
MOBUTU-SIMONET MEETING, A VIEW THAT APPEARS REASONABLE
TO EMBASSY. CHAMBERS

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NNN

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